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City of Falls Church Proclaims February as Go Direct Month

FALLS CHURCH, VA. – At its regularly scheduled City Council meeting held Monday, Feb. 13, Mayor Daniel E. Gardner proclaimed February as Go Direct Month, joining numerous other local and state jurisdictions in support of the U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Federal Reserve Banks that have partnered together to educate Americans about the advantages of having their federal benefit payments direct deposited—a safer, easier option.

In the City's proclamation, Mayor Gardner encouraged City residents to learn more about direct deposit and to consider registering for direct deposit of their Social Security and other federal benefit payments. Direct deposit eliminates the risk of lost or stolen checks, helps protect against fraud, and gives people more control over their money.

Based on December 2005 figures, in Virginia alone, more than 1.2 million residents receive Social Security or Supplemental Security Income payments. If all of these residents converted to receive their payments via direct deposit, it would result in an annual savings of more than \$2.7 million.

Go Direct is designed to inform people about the advantages of using direct deposit. Go Direct has established Web sites, www.GoDirect.org (English) and www.DirectoASuCuenta.org (Spanish), where people can register online for direct deposit of federal benefits or request an enrollment form to submit via mail. The campaign also has toll-free numbers to help people register for direct deposit over the telephone: 800-333-1795 (English) and 800-333-1792 (Spanish).

For individual state statistics of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) direct deposit and check payments, <u>click here</u>.

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